

Message Text

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16

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 RSR-01 /117 W

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R 200711Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1699

INFO DOD/ISA WASHDC

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJ: RECIPROCAL SOFA WITH AUSTRALIA

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION ON OTHER MATTERS, DFA
REP MENTIONED TO EMBOFF THAT DRAFT AGREEMENT PREPARED
BY AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENTS TO PROVIDE RECIPROCAL TREAT-
MENT FOR AUSTRALIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED IN
THE U.S. HAD AGAIN BEEN RAISED WITHIN GOA. HE SAID
THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE INTERNAL GOA COORDINATION ON
DRAFT AGREEMENT WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN ABOUT A MONTH.

2. EMBOFF EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT THIS AGREEMENT
WAS STILL BEING ACTIVELY CONSIDERED BY GOA. EMBOFF
NOTED EMBASSY'S FILE ON SUBJECT IS LIMITED TO EXCHANGES
OF VIEW BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY REPS IN U.S. AND
OFFICES OF PM AND L IN DEPARTMENT. THE LAST SUCH
PIECE OF CORRESPONDENCE WAS RECEIVED IN THE EMBASSY
IN FEBRUARY 1972.

3. EMBASSY UNABLE TO JUDGE HOW SERIOUS POSSIBILITY
IS THAT AUSTRALIANS WILL PRESENT US IN SHORT TIME
WITH DRAFT OF SUBJECT AGREEMENT. OUR ATTENTION TO
IT HAS BEEN SPORADIC FOR PAST THREE YEARS AND HAS NOT
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RESULTED IN ANY FIRM INDICATION OF RATIONALE FOR

GOA WANTING SUCH AN AGREEMENT. (USSSO CANBERRA REPORTS TWO RECENT CASES OF TRAFFIC OFFENSES BY AUSTRALIAN SAILORS IN U.S. FOR WHICH IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO HAVE HAD A CLAIMS SETTLEMENT PROCEDURE.) OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, IS THAT GOA AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE WISHES TO HAVE RECIPROCAL SOFA TO COVER ANY CLAIMS WHICH MAY RESULT FROM PRESENCE OF AUSTRALIAN MILITARY PEOPLE IN THE U.S. WHO ARE NOT COVERED BY DIPLOMATIC STATUS.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO POSSIBILITY THAT AUSTRALIANS MAY AGAIN RAISE MATTER OF RECIPROCAL SOFA AGREEMENT.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER05213
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730922/aaaaaqba.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Oct-2001 by eisnerah>; APPROVED <12-Dec-2001 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECIPROCAL SOFA WITH AUSTRALIA
TAGS: MARR, AS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005